

Pheromones Role in Triggering Oxytocin Production Leading Ultimately to Interpersonal Trust Contradicts Years of Doctrine Suggesting Role in Arousal

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Introduction

Despite decades of repetition of speculation that pheromones are related to sex hormones, this has never been substantiated. Pheromones may be important for mating, but this is a correlation without a causation. The actual path connecting pheromones to mating may be more circuitous than previously believed, particularly in socially complex creatures such as humans.

Abstract

Oxytocin is rightly associated with social bonding and is a driver of bonding, but the reason has yet to be clarified. Oxytocin is a driver of bonding for reason that increased oxytocin increases interpersonal trust and inhibits distrust. If increased oxytocin production is linked not merely to positive social experiences (such as sharing a joke or having a conversation) but is additionally triggered by pheromones secreted by members of the opposite sex, the mere inhalation of bio-compatible pheromones would lead to a surge in oxytocin.

Endorphins are released, I posit, when a relationship of trust is established e.g. a new friendship or romance. Subconsciously, the chemically induced variety of these new subconsciously perceived trust relationships require only the surge in chemical regardless of the cause. If proximity to a compatible partner leads to repeated perceptions of positive experiences caused by endorphins, the subconscious mind attributes the positive feelings with the presence of the romantic object and the conscious mind looks for rational explanations for the apparent bias in favor of seeking further shared experiences with the romantic object.

Conclusion

We can conclude from this that pheromones have addictive effects and that the subconscious mind seeks out surges in endorphins by biasing conscious behaviors in favor of choices that might lead to further proximity to individuals secreting bio-compatible pheromones. The combination of increased trust and increased time spent with potential partners is what increases the likelihood of mating vis a vis pheromone exposure rather than any increase in libidinousness as is currently implied by doctrine.